

Ella's Open Evening Speech

The majority of my friends from primary school were boys.

Going to a girls school REALLY scared me,
And when my dad asked 'what's your alternative' I didn't know where I wanted to be.

My first day, I can still remember it,
Feeling pretty nervous but only a little bit
I was in a form with only 3 people I knew,
Having awkward conversations and not knowing what to do

Year 7 went so fast and I made loads of friends,
Then Year 8, 9 and 10 came as fast as Year 7 had end

My memories are happy as well as those sad,
Like that time Karishma fell in the bin!
Or detentions with Ms Pratt
Wearing my PE kit the wrong way round,
And nearly hitting Ms Wood with a shot put
Nasty salads made in Food Tech
And finding a frog in the form room.

And it's these days that I found my voice,
Learnt to laugh with a family I thought I'd never have
Learnt to stand up,
Be strong,
Be gracious and glad
Finding my voice when it came to musicality
Going to choir every Friday
And Mr Burstow telling me this is where I'm meant to be.

Learning to use my platform to address social and global issues,
Through a love of public speaking and a confidence never to be misused
Have a new-found respect for teachers
Not only did this school teach me how to DESTROY an exam paper
But equipped me with skills and values I can use later.

Imagine this place is a garden
With rich fertile earth
Ready to be raked and sewed
For the blossoming blooms and the birth
Of gifts and talents you never knew you had
To find your voice and to be able to say
Yes I can.

It's my final year and I'm already looking at sixth form
And I'll be moving on from this wonderful school
But only so I can finally show and influence the world
With what I have learnt at Walthamstow School for Girls.